

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of exchanging information between at least one party and a plurality of intermediaries, the plurality of intermediaries including a selected intermediary, the method comprising:

providing correct information to the selected intermediary;

providing incorrect information to each of the plurality of intermediaries who are not the selected intermediary;

receiving modified information based on the correct information from the selected intermediary;

receiving modified information based on the incorrect information from each of the plurality of intermediaries who are not the selected intermediary; and

wherein the plurality of intermediaries do not know which of the plurality of intermediaries is the identity of the selected intermediary.

2. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, comprising creating the incorrect information from the correct information.

3. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, comprising creating the incorrect information as a plausible variation of the correct information.

4. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, comprising providing proprietary data as the correct information.
5. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, comprising providing a proprietary program as the correct information.
6. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, comprising providing the correct information in encrypted form.
7. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, comprising providing the incorrect information in encrypted form.
8. (Original) The method set forth in claim 1, comprising receiving the modified information based on the correct information in encrypted form.
9. (Original) A method of exchanging information among a first party, a second party, a selected intermediary and a non-selected intermediary, the method comprising:
providing, by the first party, correct first party information to the selected intermediary;
providing, by the second party, correct second party information to the selected intermediary;
providing, by the first party, incorrect first party information to the non-selected intermediary;

providing, by the second party, incorrect second party information to the non-selected intermediary;

processing, by the selected intermediary, the correct first party information in conjunction with the correct second party information to produce selected intermediary information;

processing, by the non-selected intermediary, the incorrect first party information in conjunction with the incorrect second party information to produce non-selected intermediary information;

providing, by the selected intermediary, the selected intermediary information to at least one of the first party and the second party; and

providing, by the non-selected intermediary, the non-selected intermediary information to the at least one of the first party and the second party.

10. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, comprising selecting the selected intermediary.

11. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, comprising creating the incorrect first party information from the correct first party information.

12. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, comprising creating the incorrect first party information as a plausible variation of the correct first party information.

13. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing proprietary data as the correct first party information.

14. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing a proprietary program as the correct first party information.

15. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing the correct first party information in encrypted form.

16. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing the incorrect first party information in encrypted form.

17. (Original) The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing the selected intermediary information in encrypted form.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of processing information, comprising:
receiving, by ~~an~~ a selected intermediary, correct ~~first party~~ information from a first party;
receiving, by the selected intermediary, a correct program ~~second party information~~ from a second party;
processing the correct ~~first party~~ information ~~in conjunction~~ with the correct program ~~second party information~~ to produce intermediary information;
providing the intermediary information to at least one of the first party and the second party; and

wherein a plurality of additional non-selected intermediaries receive and process incorrect first party information in conjunction with an incorrect program ~~second party~~ information.

19. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 18, comprising receiving proprietary data as the correct ~~first party~~ information.

20. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 18, comprising receiving a proprietary program as the correct program ~~first party information~~.

21. (Original) The method set forth in claim 18, comprising providing the intermediary information in encrypted form.

22. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 18, comprising receiving the correct ~~first party~~ information in encrypted form.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of exchanging information between at least one party and an intermediary, the method comprising:

a party providing at least two sets of information to the intermediary, wherein the at least two sets include a set of correct information and a set of incorrect information to the intermediary that is plausible;
a party receiving at least two sets of modified information from the intermediary, wherein the at least two sets of modified information include modified information based on the correct information from the intermediary; receiving

and modified information based on the incorrect information ~~from the~~
~~intermediary~~; and

wherein the intermediary does not know which of the at least two sets of information
is the correct information and does not know which of the at least two sets of
modified information is based on the correct information.

24. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 23 ~~24~~, comprising
creating the incorrect information from the correct information.

25. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 23 ~~24~~, comprising
creating the incorrect information as a plausible variation of the correct information.

26. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 23 ~~24~~, comprising
providing proprietary data as the correct information.

27. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 23 ~~24~~, comprising
providing a proprietary program as the correct information.

28. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 23 ~~24~~, comprising
providing the correct information in encrypted form.

29. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 23 ~~24~~, comprising
providing the incorrect information in encrypted form.

30. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 23 ~~24~~, comprising
receiving the modified information based on the correct information in encrypted form.